Establishing a local infrastructure for safety based on global visions, national policies and local conditions

Eva J Vaagland, Managing Director, Norwegian Safety Forum
NORWAY FACTS & FIGURES

- Population, 5.3 million people
- 600,000 persons need treatment for injuries every year
- 2,000 deaths related to injuries every year
- 550 suicides
- More than 9,000 hip fractures annually – one every hour
- 29 communities are designated as Safe Communities
- 40 communities take part in the network
NORWEGIAN SAFETY FORUM (NSF)

- A non-profit organization
- A national advocate for safety supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Health
- The mission is to prevent home and leisure accidents
- National center for Safe Community-work
- Activities on three levels: Lobbying and policy work on a national level, projects and activities on local level, partner and contributor on International level
WE HAVE A LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE AND SUPPORTS WHO’S “HEALTH FOR ALL-VISION” AND THE SUSTAINABLE GOALS PROGRAM
ACTIVITIES

- Website – newsletters – Facebook
- Seminars and conferences
- Networking and meetings
- Hub for information
- Activities, tools and recommendations
MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

• Ministries, counties, municipalities, universities, research institutions, NGOs, schools and health institutions etc.

• The work is supported by the Ministry of Health and the major insurance companies represented by Finance Norway
THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
ENCOMPASS MEASURES RELATING TO:

The Public Health places responsibility for public health work as a whole-of-government and a whole-of-municipality responsibility rather than a responsibility for the health sector alone.

- childhood environments
- living conditions and housing,
- education
- employment and income
- physical and social environments
- physical activity
- nutrition
- injuries and accidents
- tobacco use
- alcohol use and use of other psychoactive substances
BACKGROUND AND CHALLENGE

• The Norwegian Act of Public Health states that municipalities shall promote the population’s health and well-being, contribute to good environmental conditions and prevent mental and somatic illnesses and injuries. Preventive efforts are given broad attention.

• The same focus is echoed in other laws and regulations. This gives Norway a supportive framework, and a potential to gain interest for safety work on community level.

• Public health work is mainly focused on lifestyle diseases and the prevention of these. Much less interest is put into injury prevention and safety promotion, although life lost due to injuries is a major cause of death up to 45 years of age and caring for injuries is costly for national health services.

We need to increase awareness about the scope of injuries, causes of injuries and the potential for injury prevention and safety promotion.
STEPPING STONES TOWARDS A NATIONAL SAFE COMMUNITY MODEL

• Norway - 428 (356 communities from 2020)

• 20 years of experience with the International Safe Community model, coordinated by NSF since 2004

• Supportive National legislation and framework and a Norwegian Safety Forum as a driving force

• An active network helped to share information, and develop a new model, other experts on safety were also on board, and authorities

• We launched our National model in 2014
Based on the International model for Safe Communities the Norwegian Safety Forum has developed a National program built on Norwegian legislation and regulations.

- Plans for safety integrated in the political vision
- Plans and activities anchored locally
- Systematic safety work involving different sectors
- Knowledge based activities
- NGOs invited to participate
- A life span perspective

An eight step program is developed to guide municipalities towards recognition as a “Safe Community”. Following these steps, they will also fulfill requirements laid upon Norwegian municipalities in the Law of Public Health and other laws and regulations. This makes the National Norwegian model a useful tool for municipalities.
NORWEGIAN PATHWAY TO SAFER COMMUNITIES

• Plans for safety integrated in the political vision
• Plans and activities anchored locally
• Systematic safety work involving different sectors
• Knowledge based activities
• NGOs invited to participate
• A life span perspective
WITH A NEW MODEL WE NEEDED NEW INFORMATION

Information material has been formed in cooperation with the National Safe com Network and expertise from different sectors
A STEP-BY-STEP PROGRAM

1. Sign letter of intent and establish local working groups
2. Collect local data and knowledge about risks
3. Prioritize and make plans
4. Anchor plans and activities
5. Organize the work – cross sector approach
6. Broad participating use local resources
7. Implementation
8. Report and start over with new data and more knowledge

The eight step program helps communities to fulfill National requirements and regulations. The steps and the process also helps them to reach designation. It’s a useful tool for municipalities.
“Safe Communities is a useful model to motivate interaction and cooperation. The model gives a frame and sets the municipality's various measures into an overall system. It's good for the politicians, good for the administration and good for the citizens.”

Hans Hilding Hønsvall, varaordfører i Vestfold fylkeskommune, leader of the Safe Community work in Vestfold county
TURNING GLOBAL VISIONS AND NATIONAL POLICIES INTO LOCAL REALITIES

Global visions

National policies rules and regulations

Local plans, obligations and activities
Lack of attention is the cause of many accidents. A mobile zombie is a danger for himself and others. Most of us are in zombie modus from time to time. Watch out!

Thanks for your attention!
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